

REMARKS

It is respectfully requested that the Office enter the above claim amendments and following remarks before considering the RCE filed concurrently herewith. Claims 1-12 are currently pending in this application. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the above claim amendments and following remarks.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent 7,101,353 to Lui et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Independent claim 1 recites a tearable hemostasis valve comprised in part by a snap-fit arrangement coupled to a distal end of the valve body, wherein the snap-fit arrangement is adapted to couple onto an outer surface of an annular hub of a proximal end of a tubular medical device, wherein said snap-fit arrangement comprises a cavity disposed in said valve body and an annular sidewall defining an opening in communication with said cavity, wherein a diameter of the opening formed by the annular sidewall is less than the diameter of the cavity. (Underlining added for emphasis only). Applicant respectfully submits that Lui et al. do not disclose or suggest the recited claim elements.

The examiner alleges that FIG. 35 of Liu et al. includes a snap fit arrangement coupled to a distal end of the valve body that couples onto an annular hub of a tubular medical device as recited in claim 1. More specifically the Examiner argues that Lui et al. teaches a hemostatic valve that snap-fits both over and into a medical tube and therefore teaches all the limitations recited in the claims. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Specifically, the Examiner argues that the valves disclosed in FIGS. 34 and 35 of Lui et al. include a snap fit arrangement adapted to couple onto an annular hub of a medical device. Applicant disagrees. The valve of Lui et al. includes an interfacing region, typically located at the distal end of the valve assembly which is configured to permit the valve to be coupled or attached to a tubular medical device such as a sheath. As seen in FIGS. 34 and 35 the valves of Lui et al. are adapted to couple onto medical devices having an iso-diametric circular cross-section and not to a medical

device having an annular hub as recited in the claimed invention and shown as reference numeral 500 in FIG. 5 of the present application.

Moreover, as the Examiner notes the interfacing region of the hemostatic valve of Lui et al. is inserted into a proximal receiving chamber leading to passageway of an introducer sheath such that a contact surface of the valve seals against the inner wall of the passageway. The valve of Lui et al. further includes an outwardly tapered opening wherein a diameter of the tapered opening 134 is greater than the diameter of inner cavity 128. (Lui et al., col. 10, lines 39-45).

Lui et al. do not therefore disclose a snap-fit arrangement comprising a cavity disposed in said valve body; and an annular sidewall defining an opening in communication with said cavity, wherein a diameter of said opening is less than a diameter of said cavity as recited in claim 1. Rather, the diameter of the opening in the valve of Lui et al. is larger than the diameter of the cavity.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is novel and unobvious over Lui et al. and is therefore allowable. Applicant further submits that claims 2-3 that depend from claim 1 are allowable as is claim 1 and for additional limitations recited therein.

In addition, independent claim 4 recites a valve having first and second grip tabs wherein an angle between an interior edge of each of the first and second grip tabs is less than about ninety degrees and wherein the interior edge of each of the first and second grip tabs contact the valve body at substantially a common point. Applicant respectfully submits that Lui et al. do not disclose or suggest the recited claim elements.

Rather, the grip tabs of the Liu et al. valves are located on opposite sides of the longitudinal axis of the valve body and do not form an angle of less than about ninety degrees. Rather, the interior edges of the grip tabs of the Lui et al. valve are formed in a straight line, i.e. a 180 degree angle. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 4 is novel and non-obvious over Liu et al. and is therefore allowable. Applicants further submit that claims 5-12 that depend from claim 4 are allowable as is claim 4 and for additional limitations recited therein.

PATENT

In light of the above claim amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice of allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date



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